

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

MENTAL HEALTH
1-888-866-0328

SOCIAL SECURITY
1-800-772-1213

MONTANA HEALTH CHOICES
MEDICAID MANAGED CARE
1-800-362-8312

**CHILDREN'S HEALTH
INSURANCE PROGRAM
1-800-421-6667**

**MOUNTAIN-PACIFIC QUALITY
HEALTH FOUNDATION
TRANSPORTATION
1-800-292-7114**

CHILD SUPPORT
1-800-346-5437



Have Questions?

If you have questions about what services Medicaid will cover, or if you need to change or find a provider, call us at 1-800-362-8312. We're here to help!



CLIENT NEWSLETTER

Keeping Clients Informed Spring 2000



LEAD
POISONING....
A SERIOUS
...

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REMEMBER: April 3 - 9 is ‘Public Health Week’
www.dphhs.state.mt.us

TIPS TO PROTECT YOUR CHILD AGAINST LEAD POISONING

DID YOU KNOW THAT in 95% of cases, a lead poisoned child will show no signs of being sick? Lead exposure can hurt a child's developing brain and nervous system. All children age 9 months to 6 years are at risk for lead exposure. This is because...



- ◆ Young children will put everything in their mouths.
- ◆ At age 2, a child will keep 42% of lead in their body. Adults only keep 5% in their bodies.
- ◆ After age 6 or 7 years, a child's brain and nervous system is more than 80% developed and won't be damaged as easily.

High-risk Populations

Children at high-risk for lead exposure are those who...

- ⇒ Live near an industrial lead source (like a smelter).
- ⇒ Live or spend time in a house built before 1960.
- ⇒ Live or spend time in a house built before 1978 that has been renovated recently.
- ⇒ Have brothers, sisters or playmates who have tested high for lead exposure.

Screening Guidelines

All high-risk children should be tested **at least once** for lead poisoning. The best time for testing is sometime between 9 months and 2 years, though all high-risk children ages 2 to 6 years who have not been tested before, should be tested.

- ◆ All children receiving Medicaid are required to be screened at 12 and 24 month EPSDT screenings and this is a good time to have lead testing done.
- ◆ Children ages 2 to 6 years old who have not been screened should receive a lead test.

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Medicaid will pay for all screenings. The Montana LEAD program will pay the lab cost for all children to be screened.

Lead Sources

Paint having lead in it is how most children get lead poisoning. About 83% of all houses built before 1978 have some lead-based paint. Children are exposed to lead from peeling paint or during remodeling activities.

Soil can have lead in it from gasoline, outside lead-based paint and pollution from smelters. Soils up to 2.5 miles from a smelter may contain lead in higher amounts than what is healthy.

Dust is a key source inside homes. It was once thought that children were exposed to lead because they were eating lead-based paint, such as off of window sills. Public health workers now understand that eating and breathing in lead dust is how children get sick.

Water can be contaminated with lead from pipe fittings, water mains or the water source.

Guidance for Parents

- ◆ Have your children tested for lead, (especially if they are "high-risk").
- ◆ Wash your child's hands and face before they eat.
- ◆ If you live in a home built before 1960, be careful when remodeling, you may disturb lead-based paints. Don't scrape, sand or use a heat gun to remove paint.
- ◆ If your house has lead-based paint, dust with a damp rag and mop regularly, using a high phosphate detergent. Do not use old rags for counters or tables.
- ◆ Encourage your children to eat a diet low in fat and high in calcium and iron. This will help reduce the amount of lead absorbed by small children.

If you have questions - contact your local Public Health Department or call Montana Health Choices at **1-800-362-8312**.



MEDICAID HMOs DISCONTINUING IN YELLOWSTONE & CASCADE COUNTIES

If you live in Yellowstone or Cascade counties and have Health Now or Care Plus listed on your Medicaid card as your provider, you need to read this.

As of July 1, 2000 Montana Medicaid will no longer provide HMO services under Medicaid. There will be informational meetings scheduled in your area in May to answer your questions. You will get a letter telling you where these meetings will be and the time. Please call the Helpline at 1-800-362-8312 with any questions.



INDIAN HEALTH SERVICES

If you are a tribal member and you have a PASSPORT provider printed on your card other than I.H.S., remember that only the PASSPORT provider on your card can give you referrals to another doctor. If the I.H.S. refers you to a different doctor, and the I.H.S. is not printed on your card, you may be responsible for paying the bill.

If you have any questions about this, please call the Managed Care Helpline at **1-800-362-8312**.

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different doctor, and they are not printed on your card, you may be responsible for paying the bill. If you have any questions about this, please call the Managed Care Helpline at 1-800-362-8312 for more information.